



STATE OF IOWA

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PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 954

DATE: September 29, 2010
TO: Iowa Medicaid-Certified Nursing Facilities
FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)
SUBJECT: Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0, Section "Q"

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will implement a new version of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment required to be used by all Medicaid certified nursing facilities. Beginning October 1, 2010 the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 will be the required version. Included in the new MDS 3.0 are a series of questions known as "Section Q Return to Community Referral". The purpose of this Informational Letter is to provide nursing facilities with information regarding implementation of the new MDS 3.0 Section "Q" requirements.

The new MDS 3.0 Section "Q" items will identify nursing home residents who wish to learn about available community supports and services and the possibility of returning to the community. When an individual expresses this desire, facilities will be required to contact the State Medicaid Agency designated local contact /referral agency. The local contact agency(ies) (LCA) are expected to respond to the individuals request for information about the possibility of returning to the community by providing information about choices. The LCA (or agencies) are to provide options counseling and then transition planning for those residents identified as able to move to the community.

CMS requires that the State Medicaid Agencies designate the LCA (or agencies). There are various functions of a LCA, and there may be more than one agency or entity, based on expertise and geographic location of the entity responsible for those functions:

- Referral Agency: Entity that the nursing facility will call to refer the names of individuals requesting to talk to someone about the possibility of returning to the community.
- Options Counseling: Entity or entities that will talk with the resident, in person or by phone, to explain the options available.
- Transition Planning: Entity or entities that will do all the planning necessary for the resident to return to the community.

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME), the State Medicaid Agency, has partnered with the Iowa Department on Aging to utilize the networks already established to provide the options counseling and transition planning that will be needed to comply with this new regulation of the MDS section "Q". The following entities have been identified as the LCA's for the following functions:

- Referral Agency: The IME Medical Services Unit will receive the calls from nursing facilities making referrals for individuals who are requesting to talk to someone about the possibility of returning to the community. It will be IME Medical Services who will be the initial referral/contact point for all nursing facilities, in all counties. The nursing facility will call the following number, which is also the number to call for PASRR screenings:

1-800-383-1173 or
local 256-4623 (Des Moines)

- Options Counseling: There will be a variety of LCA entities providing options counseling:
 1. The two Aging and Disability Resource Center's (ADRCs), Hawkeye Valley and Heritage, covering the designated 17-county area will do the options counseling for:
 - Residents located in the 17-county area covered by the ADRC **and**
 - Residents statewide who it has been identified can communicate and participate in options counseling via phone.
 2. The state Long Term Care Ombudsman will provide options counseling for:
 - Residents for whom telephone communication is not an option, and will provide the options counseling in person.
- Transition Planning: There will be a variety of LCA entities providing the transition planning activities:
 1. The two ADRCs (Hawkeye Valley and Heritage) covering the designated 17-county area will do the transition planning for:
 - Residents located in the 17-county area covered by the ADRC
 2. For residents located outside of the 17-county area covered by the ADRC, the ADRCs will subcontract with:
 - The local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to provide transition planning for elderly residents who would be served by the AAA, **or**
 - A local entity in the identified communities (approved by DHS) who are experts in working with individuals with disabilities (such as mental retardation, developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, physical disability, etc).

SUMMARY

Effective October 1, 2010, nursing facilities should make referrals to the IME Medical Services Unit when any resident (regardless of pay source) identifies on the new MDS 3.0 assessment that they wish to learn about available community supports and services and the possibility of returning to the community.

IME Medical Services
1-800-383-1173 or
 local **256-4623** (Des Moines area)

After receiving the referral from the nursing facility, IME Medical Services staff will make the necessary referrals to the identified LCA for options counseling. The IME received recent clarification from CMS that Iowa's Medicaid MDS Data Use Agreement (DUA) must be amended to include designated LCA entities to be authorized to obtain individual named referrals from the MDS data base. This is needed in order to comply with the Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations. *Until the DUA is in place, the IME Medical Services staff will hold the referrals for options counseling.*

A brochure explaining the residents right to get information about returning to the community is available at: <http://go.usa.gov/xTe>. Providers interested in ordering the brochure can access <http://productordering.cms.hhs.gov/> and set up an account to order. Once your account is approved you will be able to log on and place orders.

Questions? The IME appreciates your partnership as we work together to serve the needs of Iowa Medicaid members. If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-256-4609 or by e-mail at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us